AQA

# AS
# SOCIOLOGY

## Paper 2 Research Methods and Topics in Sociology

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Materials**
For this paper you must have:
- an AQA 12-page answer book.

**Instructions**
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7191/2.
- Answer **all** questions in **Section A** and **all** questions from **one** topic in **Section B**.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Questions carrying 10 marks or more should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

## Section A

## Research Methods

Answer **all** questions in this section.

**0 1** Outline **two** advantages of using structured interviews in sociological research.

**[4 marks]**

**0 2** Evaluate the disadvantages of using personal documents in sociological research.

**[16 marks]**

## Section B

Choose **one** topic from this section and answer **all** the questions on that topic.

### Topic B1 Culture and Identity

**0 3** Define the term 'subculture'.

**[2 marks]**

**0 4** Using **one** example, briefly explain how individuals may be socialised into a national identity.

**[2 marks]**

**0 5** Outline **three** ways in which old age may be seen as a stigmatised social identity.

**[6 marks]**

**0 6** Outline and explain **two** ways in which gender identity may be expressed by lifestyle or consumption choices.

**[10 marks]**

**0 7** Read **Item A** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item A**

Functionalists believe that the socialisation process benefits all members of society. Social institutions shape individuals and transmit the culture of society. From a functionalist perspective, the role of the socialisation process is to integrate individuals into society as a whole.

Other sociologists are critical of this view of the socialisation process. For example, social action approaches place more emphasis on the way individuals create their own identity through interaction with others.

Applying material from **Item A** and your knowledge, evaluate the functionalist view of the role of the socialisation process.

**[20 marks]**

**Turn over for the next topic**

## Topic B2 Families and Households

**0 8** Define the term 'extended family'.

**[2 marks]**

**0 9** Using **one** example, briefly explain how the distinction between adults and children is becoming blurred in modern society.

**[2 marks]**

**1 0** Outline **three** possible effects the rise of dual-earner households has had on the family.

**[6 marks]**

**1 1** Outline and explain **two** ways in which an ageing population may affect family structure and organisation.

**[10 marks]**

**1 2** Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item B**

Some sociologists argue that personal relationships now take on so many different forms that traditional families are no longer the centre of peoples' personal lives. The friends we choose are an increasingly important source of personal relationships. Furthermore, there is no longer such a thing as a typical family.

Other sociologists argue that these changes are exaggerated and that many aspects of traditional families continue to be important for people.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that traditional families are no longer the centre of peoples' personal lives.

**[20 marks]**

## Topic B3 Health

**1 3** Define the term 'inverse care law'.

**[2 marks]**

**1 4** Using **one** example, briefly explain why children may **not** be able to access health care.

**[2 marks]**

**1 5** Outline **three** reasons that may explain ethnic differences in health chances.

**[6 marks]**

**1 6** Outline and explain **two** ways in which aspects of women's lives may have become medicalised.

**[10 marks]**

**1 7** Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item C**

Structuralist sociologists argue that mental illness is a real condition. They explain the distribution of mental illness in relation to the structure of society. They point to social patterns of mental illness based on social class, gender and ethnicity.

However, some interactionist sociologists argue that mental illness is a social construction. They look at the reasons why certain forms of behaviour are seen as mental illness.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the view that mental illness is a result of the structure of society.

**[20 marks]**

**Turn over for the next topic**

## Topic B4 Work, Poverty and Welfare

**1 8** Define the term 'universal benefits'.

**[2 marks]**

**1 9** Using **one** example, briefly explain a disadvantage of voluntary groups providing welfare services.

**[2 marks]**

**2 0** Outline **three** ways in which age may affect the experience of poverty.

**[6 marks]**

**2 1** Outline and explain **two** reasons why people with disabilities may **not** receive the state benefits they are entitled to.

**[10 marks]**

**2 2** Read **Item D** below and answer the question that follows.

**Item D**

For most adults, work is an important source of status and identity. It also has a major effect on the free time people have and on the money that they have to spend.

However, postmodernists argue that work is becoming less significant. They argue that consumption is a more important source of identity. Moreover, work itself is changing, for example there are more part time and temporary work arrangements, so making it less central to people's lives.

Applying material from **Item D** and your knowledge, evaluate the significance of work for people's lives and life chances.

**[20 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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